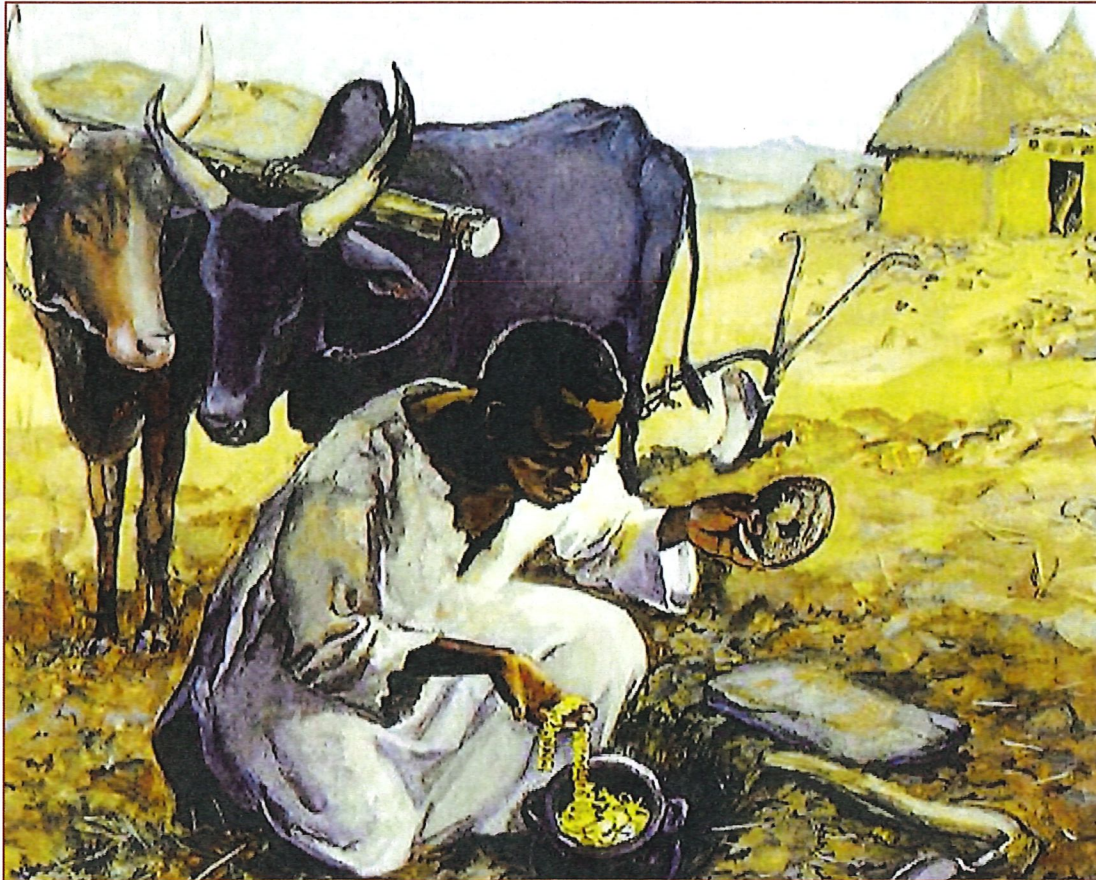




Church of Saint Cecilia

2357 Bayless Place • Saint Paul, MN 55114
651.644.4502
Fax 651.647.1445 • www.stceciliasp.org

Weekly Masses:
Saturday 4:30 & Sunday 8:15 & 10:00
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45



A treasure hidden in a field.

Jesus Mafa

TEMPORARY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
10:00am to 1:00pm

PARISH STAFF

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Pastor
651.644.4502 x 14
pastor@stceciliasp.org

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Rose Ryan

Maintenance Coordinator
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Trustees

Dick McCarthy 651.644.2831 & Mary Ellen Ryan 651.746.9227

The Church of Saint Cecilia

Editor's note: In years past, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park participated in Project Home by sheltering homeless families during the month of August. St. Cecilia was one of five congregations that volunteered to help staff the site. Because of the pandemic and for the safety of all, Project Home has moved to a different model. Below is a note from St. Matthew's Project Home Coordinator regarding this year's program & ways to help. Questions may be directed to St. C's Project Home Coordinators JoAnn Mason or Rose Marie Assad via the parish office.

New Developments for Project Home during COVID

During the pandemic, increasing awareness has grown about systemic racial inequities, including the prevalence of homelessness, particularly for St Paul's lowest-income residents. For years, St Matthews has participated in Project Home, an Interfaith Action program sheltering St Paul's homeless families (children and their caregivers). Usually we provide overnight shelter to families in this program during the month of August. However, because of the pandemic, and a resulting shortage of volunteers, Project Home has moved to a different model. Instead of busing these families to spend evenings and overnights in houses of worship, all the families have been sheltering day and night in Project Home's day center in downtown St Paul, cared for by staff and an excellent young cook. Last week, to better comply with CDC guidelines, the families and staff were moved to Hotel 340 in downtown St Paul. They'll stay there until they find housing or the pandemic is over.

During August, although St Matthews won't be hosting Project Home as usual, our help is still needed. Amber Gale, Project Home's rapid exit caseworker, has found housing for four of these families, all scheduled to move out during August. All four families will urgently need basic supplies (see list below) for their apartments.

Donations may be dropped off at Hotel 340, 340 Cedar Ave., St Paul (Pull up in front, go in to the front desk and ask for Amber or a Project Home staff member. They will bring a cart and load up donations.)

Donations needed:

- Shower curtains/curtain rings
- Bathroom rugs
- Bath soaps, shampoo & conditioner, first aid kits
- Toilet paper
- Basic cleaning supplies (paper towels, detergent, bleach, broom/mop/rags, dish soap)
- Garbage bags and trash cans
- Pots & pans
- Cooking utensil sets
- Silverware (flatware) sets
- New sets of bath towels including wash cloths if possible
- Furniture (able to be dropped off or fit in SUV for pick up):
 - Table and chairs for kitchen
 - Dresser for 2 little girls
 - Other (while families can get free furniture at Bridging, there's a month-long waiting list)

August School Supply Drive

In lieu of a monetary food drive, we'll shift to a school supply drive for August. Keystone Community Services will be providing us with supply requests and drop off information. For safety reasons, we will require you to drop off your donations directly to Keystone Community Services in Merriam Park or a school of your choice. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Finding the Kingdom as a

community search process....Fr.

Thomas O'Loughlin, a professor of Historical Theology at the University of Wales, in reflecting on this weekend's readings makes some good observations for how we are to function together as Christians in pursuit of the Kingdom.

Our isolation from each other due to Covid makes some of this work a little harder to keep in mind and practice!

John Hofstede

Jesus did not come with ideas to sell to individuals, but to form a community. Jesus did not invent a set of rituals for several individuals, but wanted people to have the ethos of sharing among themselves. Indeed, the very heart of his community is mirrored in the sharing of a family around the meal table.

If I want to learn to be Christian, then I must commit myself to gathering with the group, to praying with the group, to sharing my talents and resources with the group, and collectively we must share them with the poor.

Even when I pray on my own, I must remember that I pray as part of the community. Even when I pray 'Our Father' not 'my Father'; even alone I pray that the Father 'give us this day our daily bread' not that he gives me my needs; I pray 'forgive us our trespasses' not just that he forgives me mine; I pray that 'as we forgive those who trespass against us,' so he should forgive us; and I pray the he does not 'lead us into temptation.'

Discovering that I can become truly the person God wishes me to be is a pearl of great price, but that in turn demands that we learn to live and work in loving communities. Such communities of love mirror within the creation the community of love that is the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12. *Solomon prays: "Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong."*

Psalms 119: *Lord, I love your commands.*

Romans 8: 28-30. *God makes all things work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's decree.*

Matthew 13: 44-52. *The reign of God is like buried treasure for which people sell all their possessions. Every scribe learned in the reign of God brings forth the old and the new.*

Reflection questions

What does someone have to do to become learned in the reign of God? Who do you know that has this kind of wisdom? How did they acquire it? What would you have to do?

Describe a time when a decision you made seemed right or wise. Name a time when a decision you made seemed to be wrong or unwise. What brought you to this awareness?

Where in your life do you find value? Have you found that something you once treasured now has little or no value? Why?

Have you had to pay a price to seek or possess something of value to you? What did it cost you?

Where or when in your life have you sensed a little bit of "heaven on earth?"

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oh My Goodness

Although we're unable to collect fresh produce each week at church, we encourage you to donate directly from your garden to a food shelf of your choosing. Produce may also be purchased at area farmers' markets and donated as well. Below are some of the places accepting fresh vegetables:

CEAP Brooklyn Center

7051 Brooklyn Boulevard

Northpoint Health & Wellness

1835 Penn Avenue North, Minneapolis

Keystone

1459 Rice Street, St. Paul

1916 University Avenue, St. Paul

Merrick Community Services

1740 Van Dyke Street (Woodland Hills Church), Maplewood

Sabathani Community Center

310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis

VEAP

9600 Aldrich Avenue South, Bloomington

Neighbors, Inc.

222 Grand Avenue W., South St. Paul

To find nearby food shelves using your zip code go to www.hungersolutions.org.



Catholic School Parents' Association (CSPA)

For many years St. Cecilia's has maintained a commitment to Catholic education by inviting parents enrolled in area Catholic elementary schools to form an informal association to help develop funds for a grant program to off-set their tuition costs. To be eligible for these modest grants, participating parents sign an agreement to participate in developing a fund-raising event to help build the fund. In addition, our parish also has a special collection during Catholic Schools Week in early February. A grant amount (based on available funds) is sent in early Spring on the parent's behalf to the school where their child attends.

Interested parents must sign an enrollment agreement by September 1 of the school year with the commitment to participate in the fundraising process. The grant amount will be determined by the total of funds raised by a distribution date around April 15 of that school year. To participate in the coming school year, please call Linda Whiteneck in the parish office at 651.644.4502 with further questions or to make arrangements to sign the agreement. Thank you.

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Registration 2020-2021

I have implemented many changes to our Faith Formation program this year in order to keep our families and catechists safe. Please note the following:

- Our program will move to a "whole family catechesis" model. Instead of breaking into grade levels for instruction, a small number of families have the option to attend in person and sit at their own table. Lessons will be intergenerational. No potluck meal will be served. Masks will be required and tables spaced apart.
- Two sessions like this will be held each month on Sundays, but the sessions will be identical so families would only attend once. Sign-up Genius links will be sent out so attendance is by reservation only.
- The only grade level groupings will be for Confirmation (grades 8-9) and First Eucharist (grade 2). They will meet once a month in person.
- I will record our meetings and Zoom them live for families who feel safer watching at home. Families have the option to have the curriculum printed for homeschooling.
- Each meeting will include instruction and a service project or activity component.
- To complement our Sunday liturgies, we will record Liturgy of the Word for Children and post it to our Google Drive page.
- CGS will be by appointment only.

To register for Faith Formation please click [here](#). I am hopeful that we can continue to learn and grow in our faith together this year. Please note that these guidelines are subject to change based on current COVID best practices. I appreciate your cooperation and patience!

Theresa O'Toole

Catechetical Ministry Coordinator

Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Email info to bulletin@stceciliaspam.org.

Prayer Ministry: If you have an intention you wish prayed for, please call the parish office at 651.644.4502 or complete the form on our website (Community/Prayer Ministry tab).

Have a plan for the ones you leave behind.
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